X-MEN/ETERNALS: MANIFEST DESTINY

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ETERNALS

KNAUF
NGUYEN
TROY





SERSI



IKARIS



DRUIG



ZURAS



MAKKARI

PREVIOUSLY IN ETERNALS



JACK

EXISTING FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, THE ETERNALS—NEAR IMMORTAL BEINGS CREATED BY THE WORLD-JUDGING **CELESTIALS**—HAVE PROTECTED EARTH THROUGHOUT WRITTEN HISTORY. OFTEN REVERED AS GODS, THESE MIGHTY WARRIORS HAVE FILLED THE COURTS OF THEIR HOME OLYMPIA WITH TREACHERY. MOST ETERNALS REMAIN LOYAL TO THEIR LEADER **ZURAS**, BUT HIS AMBITIOUS NEPHEW **DRUIG** HAS PLANS FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER. AND DRUIG'S COUSIN **IKARIS** IS DETERMINED TO RUIN THOSE PLANS.

DRUIG'S BID FOR DOMINATION WAS THWARTED THANKS TO THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF **SERSI**. BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO THOSE WHO MOURNED HER DEATH, SERSI AWAKENED IN A STRANGE CANTINA CALLED THE VESTIBULE. THERE, SHE WAS GREETED BY A BARTENDER NAMED **JACK**, WHO REVEALED THAT THE BAR WAS IN FACT A FORM OF COSMIC LIMBO.

MEANWHILE, IN SAN FRANCISCO, IKARIS AND DRUIG'S FORCES WAGE A BLOODY BATTLE THAT IS INTERRUPTED BY THE CITY'S NEWEST CHAMPIONS, THE ASTONISHING **X-MEN**! WITH THESE MUTANT HEROES ON HIS SIDE, IKARIS TAKES DOWN HIS HATED FOE. BUT THE VICTORY IS MEANINGLESS, AS THE WORLD-DEVOURING **HORDE**—WHO THE ETERNALS WERE CREATED TO STOP—SUDDENLY DESCEND UPON THE PLANET...



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STUTTGART, GERMANY— 2115 A.D.

YOU'RE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND...

...BUT NOT *IMPOSSIBLE.*

DID YOU THINK IT WAS *YOUR* IDEA TO SEARCH FOR ME, MICHELLE URICH?

SO WE CAN CHALK UP *MIND MANIPULATION* AS ONE OF THE MANY REPORTED POWERS YOUR PEOPLE POSSESS...?

HA! ALWAYS FISHING FOR ANSWERS! SO MUCH LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER.

NO OFFENSE, BUT I'VE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF MY CAREER SEARCHING FOR YOU AND OVER TWO GRAND OF MY *OWN* MONEY GETTING HERE.

THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS OFFER ME A SEAT.

BY ALL MEANS...

IN YOUR EMAIL YOU SAID YOU HAVE SOMETHING...?

I DO.

WELL, THEN?

FIRST, INFORMATION.

FINE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

EVERYTHING.

THAT'S A LOT.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME...

IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S JUST THAT "EVERYTHING" IS, LITERALLY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS WORTH OF EVENTS BEHIND HISTORY.

HOW ABOUT WE START WITH WHAT *YOU* KNOW AND I'LL FILL IN THE BLANKS.

SAN FRANCISCO — TODAY.

"OKAY, LET'S SEE...I KNOW YOU ARE AN *ETERNAL.* ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET.

THE HORDE.

"LIMITED IN NUMBERS WITH EVEN FEWER IN ACTIVE DUTY TODAY, YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING A VERY LOW PROFILE OVER THE LAST *HUNDRED YEARS.*

WOW...

...THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.

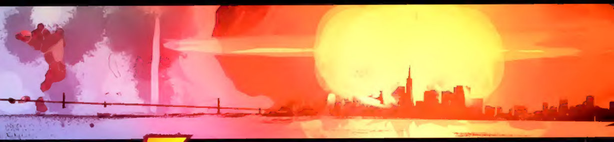
WOLVERINE, YOU AND THE X-MEN NEED TO PROTECT AS MANY CIVILIANS AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY WE *ETERNALS* CAN FIGHT.

"ACCORDING TO CORE SAMPLES TAKEN FROM VARIOUS POINTS ACROSS THE GLOBE, SOMETHING HAPPENED AROUND 100 YEARS AGO.

"SOMETHING THAT, BY EVERY SCIENTIFIC CALCULATION, SHOULD HAVE *INSTANTLY DESTROYED* THIRTY PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S LIVING CREATURES.


"SCIENTISTS ARE NOW CALLING IT 'THE APOCALYPSE THAT NEVER WAS.'"


EVERYBODY GET--



FFRRBRRRNN

THE HORDE HAS INITIATED THEIR OFFENSIVE!

WHERE, ZURAS?

THE BETTER QUESTION, THENA, IS WHERE DIDN'T THEY HIT?

NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, MOST OF THE MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE, THE ENTIRE LAND-MASS OF JAPAN-- ALL GONE.

MOMMA?

NOT NOW, JOEY. MOTHER'S WORKING.

OLYMPIA.

PROBABLY JUST A PRELIMINARY ATTACK. THE ENTIRE PLANET IS SURROUNDED BY THE REST OF 'EM.

THERE'S IN EXCESS OF A TRILLION ENEMY UNITS IN OUR ORBIT.

WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE, THENA?

WE DO WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO.

SAVE THE WORLD.

"...AT THIS POINT WE HAVE REALLY NO CLUE WHAT HAPPENED SAVE FOR SOME LATENT PSYCHIC IMPRESSIONS IN THE AREA."

"SO WHAT IS YOUR BEST GUESS, MICHELLE?"

"WELL...ACCORDING TO THE XAVIER INSTITUTE YOUR PEOPLE FOUGHT SOMETHING CALLED THE HORGE?"

"HA! NO...

"...THE HORDE.

"THE WORLD REAPERS.

"THE HORDE ARE THE LAST THINGS A WORLD SEES BEFORE IT DIES.

"NOTHING CAN STOP THEM. I'VE HEARD STORIES FROM MY COUSINS ON TITAN THAT EVEN THE ***CELESTIALS*** CAN'T STOP THEM."

"WELL, IF THEY'RE UNSTOPPABLE WHAT DID YOUR PEOPLE DO?"

"WHAT ***ELSE*** COULD WE DO?"

ETERNALS...

SSSSSSHH

...ATTACK!

PT TT-TOOM!

ZZZARRCK!



MANIFEST DESTINY CONCLUSION

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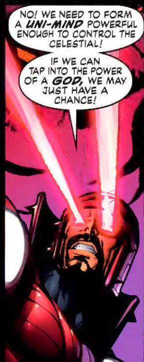
KEEP MOVING SOUTH! WE'LL--

ZSLURRT!




WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DRUIG?! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD TO OLYMPIA!
NO! WE HAVE ONE CHANCE OF STOPPING THIS!


WE NEED MORE ETERNALS IN PLAY BEFORE THE HORDE MOVES IN AND SCOURS THE EARTH!


NO! WE NEED TO FORM A UNI-MIND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONTROL THE CELESTIAL!
IF WE CAN TAP INTO THE POWER OF A GOD, WE MAY JUST HAVE A CHANCE!


BUT WE NEED THE PRIME ETERNAL TO INITIATE A UNI-MIND.
OPEN YOUR EYES, IKARIS! TO BECOME PRIME ETERNAL, ONE MUST BE CHOSEN BY THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE.
AND WHAT IS GATHERED HERE TODAY AT THIS LOCATION?


A MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE...


...
EVERYBODY MOVE TO THE DREAMING CELESTIAL!

THE VESTIBULE.

WHA--?

VAMPIRO?!

SERSI?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HAS *THE HORDE* ATTACKED?

WHERE-- WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

GEEZ, SERSI, GIVE THE BOY A CHANCE TO ADJUST. WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO CATCH UP...

DREAM SPACE.

I HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL OF MY OPTIONS, UATU.

THE EARTH WILL SURELY PERISH.

NOTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE IS SURE, CELESTIAL.

INCONSEQUENTIAL REMARK. APPEALS TO THE FULCRUM HAVE BEEN DISREGARDED.

THEN APPEAL TO ***YOURSELF.***

I ***WARN*** YOU, WATCHER. ONE MORE SUGGESTION TO DEFY THE FULCRUM AND--

YOU WILL ***WHAT?*** STAND BY AND WATCH ME DIE OF OLD AGE?

YOU KNOW THAT ***"ANOMALY"*** YOU REMARKED UPON RECENTLY?

THAT ELECTRIC PULSE YOU SENSE MORE AND MORE CONSISTENTLY?

THE PULSE THAT SEEMED TO BE COMPLETELY ***RANDOM*** AT FIRST, BUT NOW REGISTERS WITH EVERY CYCLE?

IT IS WHAT THE HUMANS CALL A ***CONSCIENCE.*** IT IS WHAT RECOGNIZES AND DIFFERENTIATES GOOD FROM EVIL.

IT TOOK ME CENTURIES TO FINALLY FIGURE OUT WHAT IT WAS. IT TOOK ME EVEN LONGER TO REALIZE THAT THE BEST THING TO DO WAS SIMPLY HEED IT.

WHAT WILL ***YOU*** DO WITH FREE WILL?

IT'S NOT WHAT *I* WILL DO, WATCHER.

IT'S WHAT I WILL ***ALLOW*** TO BE DONE.

SAN FRANCISCO.

DO WE ACCEPT IKARIS AS OUR *MOST HIGH?*

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR PEOPLE?

HE WHO CHOOSES OUR PATH?

DRUIG, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

LEGBA, I STILL BELIEVE *I* SHOULD BE PRIME--

YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T *OBLITERATE* YOU WHERE YOU STAND FOR TWISTING OUR MINDS, YOU SON OF A GOAT!

NO, PIXIE. WE NEED EVERYONE IN ORDER TO DO THIS RIGHT.

SPEAKING OF EVERYONE, IKARIS, DON'T YOU THINK THAT IF WE INCLUDED MORE IN OUR UNI-MIND WE WOULD HAVE A *BETTER* CHANCE TO PULL THIS OFF?

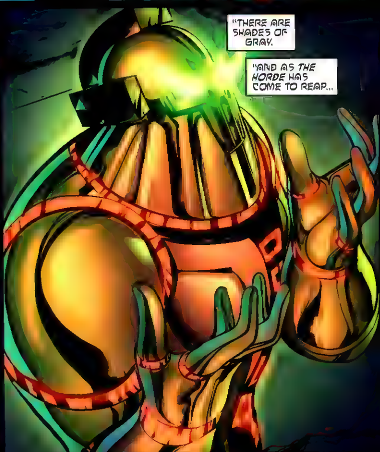
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE REST OF THE FAMILY...

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M WORTH A LITTLE MORE THAN *BUSY WORK,* HUH, IKARIS?

AJAK! YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED... WITH *ALL* THE ETERNALS!


"YES, WATCHER.
"I SEE NOW, AS THE ETERNALS FORM THEIR ALL-POWERFUL UNI-MIND TO ENTER MY BODY...

"THERE IS MORE THAN BLACK AND WHITE.


"THERE ARE SHADES OF GRAY.
"AND AS THE HORDE HAS COME TO REAP...

"...SO SHALL WE!"

SCHWOOOMM!

"OKAY, OKAY WHAT IS THE *UNI-MIND?"*

"HMMM. WELL, MICHELLE, WHEN A GROUP OF ETERNALS ARE FACING SOMETHING THAT ONE OF US **CANNOT** DEFEAT, THEY TRANSCEND EARTHLY FORM AND COMBINE THEIR ENERGIES TO FORM A UNI-MIND."

"WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?"

"BECAUSE NORMALLY IT'S DONE WITH THREE OF MY PEOPLE AND THAT'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH. LIKE ANY OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE, IT TAKES AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF CONCENTRATION AND THERE ARE **MANY** PITFALLS.

"BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THIS, MICHELLE--

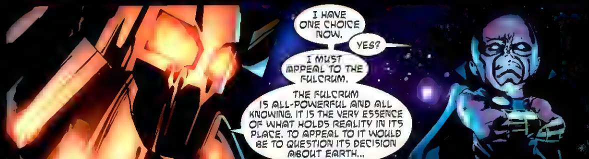
"--IT WAS **BEAUTIFUL.**"

KK-ZSSHRRK!


SZZZSKK


"DREAMING CELESTIAL, I APPLAUD YOU FOR YOUR DIRECT APPROACH..."


...UNFORTUNATELY, THEY CANNOT KEEP THIS UP FOREVER.
I UNDER-STAND.

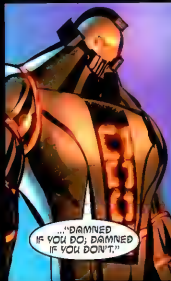

I HAVE ONE CHOICE NOW.
YES?
I MUST APPEAL TO THE FULCRUM.
THE FULCRUM IS ALL-POWERFUL AND ALL KNOWING. IT IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF WHAT HOLDS REALITY IN ITS PLACE. TO APPEAL TO IT WOULD BE TO QUESTION ITS DECISION ABOUT EARTH...


...WHICH IS ILLOGICAL.
IF I OPT TO QUESTION ITS DECISION, THAT FUNCTION MUST BE WITHIN MY MISSION PARA-METERS. BUT...


...IF TO QUESTION THE FULCRUM IS INDICATIVE OF A MALFUNCTION, I WILL BE UNMADE.


WELL?


THERE IS A CURIOUS SAYING ON EARTH THAT I NEVER UNDERSTOOD, BUT NOW ITS MEANING IS QUITE CLEAR...


..."DAMNED IF YOU DO; DAMNED IF YOU DON'T."

THE VESTIBULE.

YOU ARE...THE FULCRUM?

HELLO, CELESTIAL.

I THINK I MAY BE *BROKEN*.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

BECAUSE... MY PROGRAMMING IS CHANGING.

CHANGING? IN WHAT WAY?

MY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS NO LONGER FOLLOWS MY PRIMARY PROGRAMMING GUIDELINES.

PLEASE DESCRIBE.

DECISIONS ARE NOT ONLY TAKING LONGER TO DETERMINE, THEY MAY ALSO BE CHANGED MULTIPLE TIMES FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO ME.

EXAMPLE: MY COMING HERE TODAY TO MAKE A TOTALLY IRRATIONAL REQUEST.

AND WHAT IS *THAT?*

SPARE EARTH.

I WILL DO WHAT YOU ASK, IF YOU PROVIDE ME WITH ANSWERS TO TWO QUESTIONS.

THE FIRST IS: *WHY?*

BECAUSE...

BECAUSE...

I...
I THINK IT'S
BECAUSE...

...I...

...I CARE.

I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A COMPANION SINCE THE BIG CRUNCH.

TIME HAS PASSED. I HAVE SEEDED PLANETS FOR AN ***IMMEASURABLE*** AMOUNT OF TIME. I HAVE WATCHED OTHER CELESTIALS CHANGE AND EVOLVE INTO BEINGS OF ***GREATER*** POWER. SOME HAVE COME CLOSE.

BUT YOU, DREAMING CELESTIAL...YOU ARE THE ONLY BEING TO ***QUESTION*** ME...

...TO BECOME AN ***INDIVIDUAL.***

YOU ARE NO LONGER MY ***DEVICE.*** IN SHATTERING THAT BOND, YOU HAVE PROVEN A POWER EQUAL TO MY OWN.

THE ***SECOND*** QUESTION IS: WILL YOU COME WITH ME?







AND...?

AND *WHAT?*

AND THE *OTHERS?*

THERE ARE NO OTHERS.

SEEING AS HOW THE ACTIVATION CHAMBER IS YET TO BE FIXED AND EVERYONE ELSE WAS TRAPPED IN THE UNI-MIND...

SO THERE ARE JUST *THREE* OF YOU?

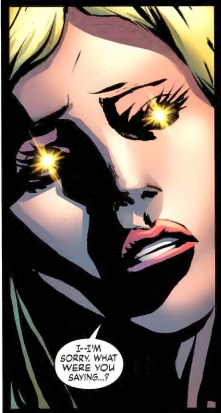
YUP.


SO WHY LIVE IN HIDING?
MANY REASONS, NONE OF WHICH YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
TRY ME.


I'VE ANSWERED ALL YOUR QUESTIONS TRUTHFULLY, MS. URICH. NOW FOR YOUR PART...?


AH, THE BOOK!
YES. IT WAS A HUGE HELP IN TRACKING DOWN SOURCES FOR MY ARTICLE.
I WAS JUST WONDERING. IF YOU DO HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS LIKE THE OTHERS, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SCRAMBLE MY BRAIN AND TAKE IT?
MY MOTHER DID NOT RAISE A THIEF, MS. URICH.
THE SHREWSBURY CHRONICLES




I--I'M SORRY. WHAT WERE YOU SAYING...?


I WAS ASKING IF I COULD BUY YOU A DRINK.
I'M SORRY. I'M TOTALLY DRAWING A BLANK ON YOUR NAME.
MY NAME'S JOEY...
...JOEY ATHENA.



DID SHE BUY IT?

NAH. SHE'S WAY TOO GOOD, IKARIS.

THE HUMANS ARE CATCHING ON TO US AGAIN. WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

I KNOW. LAST TIME WE WENT PUBLIC WE HAD TO FOLLOW ALL THE MORTALS' RULES, LAWS, BLAH BLAH BLAH...

DON'T JOKE. THEY MAY BE SHORT-LIVED, BUT THEY CAN MAKE THINGS **VERY** DIFFICULT.

SO WHAT'S NEXT, MAKKARI?

WE HAVE MASSIVE SEISMIC ACTIVITY OFF JAPAN, THE DEVIANTS ARE ACTING UP AGAIN IN NEW AFRICA AND WE MAY HAVE TO HELP THE X-NATION AGAIN.

SOUNDS FUN, SERSI. LET'S ROLL.

SORRY, NOT YOU, JOEY.

WHA--?

YOUR MOM AND ZURAS EXPECT YOU HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER.

TAKE A BREAK, KID. THERE'S ONE HUNDRED ***MORE*** OF US TO PICK UP THE SLACK.

THE END...?

MINUTEMEN

